

# All stations to get social workers

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department has secured funding to embed a social worker at all six patrol division stations.

The Hall Family Foundation is providing \$640,000, and the City of Kansas City is matching that with \$470,000 to fund six social workers and a program coordinator for the next three years. The social workers' primary function is to provide support and act as a resource for officers through community outreach, support and service referrals.

"We are willing to forge non-traditional partnerships that work to decrease crime in our city," Chief Rick Smith said. "People who don't have their basic needs met will always look for alternative means. The KCPD is striving to assist with those alternative means, as opposed to criminal means."

A board member of the Police Foundation of Kansas City had a connection to a board member of the Hall Family Foundation. Through that, KCPD's current social worker, Gina English, and Chief Smith were able to present the police department's proposal.

"We are so glad the Hall Family Foundation chose to fund this project and that the City realized its worth and is providing matching funding," Chief Smith said. "I truly believe this will have a significant impact on crime in our community, and I'm excited to see what this public-private partnership can accomplish."

The department aims to have the social workers in place by early March. By Feb. 7, more than 100 people already had applied for the jobs. They will work out of patrol division stations, attend weekly crime meetings and communicate regularly with officers about residents in need of assistance, especially early intervention for at-risk youth.

According to the grant proposal, the goals of the social worker program are to:

1. Cultivate a shared mission for service providers to work together, decreasing gaps in services and strengthening each other's ability to influence people who need help and act as a safeguard in times of crisis.

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2. Provide prevention support for youth identified as mid-level risk due to past police contact, criminal activity or escalation in crime type.

3. Increase the public's overall satisfaction with police by offering another level of customer service and problem-solving actions to the Police Department.

Chief Smith said there are a lot of people dealing with issues in

Kansas City that are frankly not the job of police to address: family problems, poverty, addiction and more. But those very issues are what create crime problems in the community. He said social workers can address such issues in a way that brings lasting, positive change.

For example, Gina English, the social worker who pioneered the program at Central Patrol Division, did more to stop the problem of youth congregating on the Country Club Plaza and becoming destructive and violent than police ever could.

"She really talked to the teens there and then created a diversion and citizenship program for them," Chief Smith said.

Her work changed the requirement of police presence on

weekend nights on the Plaza from 30 on-duty officers to six off-duty ones, Chief Smith said.

English now will serve as the coordinator for the expanded program.

The new social workers will be expected to continue her work with juveniles in detention and in Municipal Court as well as building a diverse network of community resources. They also always must maintain KCPD's duty to protect and serve the entire community, placing public safety above all.



**Central Patrol Division Social Worker Gina English, left, attended a meeting with officers and residents. English now will serve as coordinator of six social workers who will serve all patrol divisions in the city.**

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# Volunteer helps Crime Lab research

A chemical that makes hidden fingerprints show up in fluorescence, a machine that analyzes the chemical make-up of dirt and a table full of fake skulls and brains are among the things researched by KCPD Auxiliary Volunteer Ron MacGregor at the Kansas City Crime Lab.

After seeing a newspaper story about a purported backlog of DNA samples at the Lab in 2012, MacGregor – a retired professor of cell biology and biochemistry – contacted the Lab and asked if he could help. He learned there really wasn't a great backlog, but he still wanted to provide any assistance he could as a scientist.

He started his career doing research at the Kansas City V.A. Hospital in cell biology and biochemistry. Seeking more action, he moved to the University of Kansas Medical Center in the early 1980s. In addition to doing research there, he taught courses in cell biology, biochemistry and histology (the study of the microscopic structure of tissues) to medical and doctoral students. He retired in 2010 but said he quickly got bored.

MacGregor was assigned to do research projects at the Crime Lab.

"He doesn't do casework, but he supports casework," said Kevin Winer, Chief Criminalist of the Lab's Trace Evidence and Chemistry sections. "We have to stay current with technology, and he's able to accommodate that for us."

One of the first projects he worked on was testing a fluorescent chemical that brings hidden fingerprints into view. After his work,

the Lab implemented the chemical's use.

"Most of the people here are working cases," MacGregor said. "They don't have time to say, 'Let's try this.' Or, 'Is that a good reagent?' I can do that."

The Lab also acquired a machine that analyzed soil samples, determining how much of which elements were present. This is important because it can essentially place something like a suspect's shoe at a crime scene. MacGregor helped create the methodology for these tests that the forensic specialists can use in their cases. Another newer machine is doing the same thing with auto glass.

His latest project is with Chief Criminalist Winer.

"For the last two years, we've been trying to re-create half a skull to simulate blood stains associated with gunshot wounds," Winer said.

Winer earned a grant to analyze blood spatter from gunshot wounds to the head with scientists in New Zealand several years ago. The spatter analysis can reveal a

great deal of information about the positions of the shooter and victim.

"There are obviously plenty of shootings and blood associated with them, but it's extremely challenging to simulate them for research," Winer said.

It's obviously something no one wants to volunteer for, and Mac-

*Continued on p. 3*



*Photo by Chief Criminalist Supervisor Mark Southwell*

## E.O.C. 161 and Lateral Class graduate



Entrant Officer Class 161 graduated January 11 with 22 officers being sworn into the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, and seven officers being sworn into outside agencies. Class valedictorian was KCPD Officer Rhapsody Fearon. The Richard Fletcher Director's Award went to Officer Casca Hunter of the Lee's Summit Police Department.

Graduating alongside E.O.C. 161 was the 11-member Lateral Class 1, all joining KCPD. They were profiled in the previous issue of *The Informant*.



# Wanted: A few good horses

**P**eople just aren't giving away horses anymore.

For the first time since it started in 2006, the Mounted Patrol Unit has to buy horses through its non-profit.

"Up to now, all of our horses have been donated," Sergeant Joey Roberts said. "But with the horse market what it is now, horses are more expensive."

Sergeant Roberts said the biggest change was last year's removal of the ban on horse slaughtering in the U.S. For better or worse, unwanted horses now are off the market, prompting an increase in demand.

The types of horses KCPD uses – drafts and draft-crosses – also have experienced a surge in popularity. Sergeant Roberts said those who enjoy trail riding are finding that even though they're large, the draft breeds are calmer and mellower, so they're getting snatched up faster.

"It used to be no one wanted 16-hand (tall) horses because it was much farther to fall," he said.

The height is important for police work so officers can see over a crowd, and the large stature is needed to move sometimes unruly groups of people along, Sergeant Roberts said.

The Friends of the Kansas City Missouri Mounted Patrol (FKCMMP) fund-raising group now is looking at an average price of \$6,000 to \$8,000 per horse. A well-trained one could cost \$10,000. And due to retirements, at least three more horses are needed soon.

"We would rather not have to buy horses because right now they're expensive," said Retired Major Victor Kauzlarich, now president of the FKCMMP non-profit that supports the Mounted Patrol Unit. "... But so far it's not detracting from the other things we do for the guys



**With the retirement of Meyers (who enjoyed some horse-friendly cake with officers at his retirement party Feb. 9) and other horses, the Mounted Patrol Unit needs to purchase new horses for the first time ever.**

out there."

It takes a special horse to work at KCPD. Below are the qualifications the Mounted Patrol is looking for:

- Geldings between the ages of 4-10 years
- 16.2 hands or taller
- Prefer drafts/half drafts, but will consider most other breeds
- Riding experience
- Calm demeanor, and be curious/willing to learn
- Located within 6 hours of Kansas City, Mo.

Those are the criteria for purchased horses, Sergeant Roberts said. For dona-

tions, he said the unit will take horses that are slightly older or shorter.

A horse could have all those qualifications, but if their temperament or personality aren't right, they won't make it. As animals that are usually prey, police work can be too scary for a lot of horses.

"It can take years until they really settle into the job," Sergeant Roberts said. "It's an unnatural environment for them to be in. They're afraid a lot of times, and we have to make them confident and brave."

The Mounted Patrol Unit does trial periods with horses ranging from 30 to 90 days to see if they can pass muster. The horses also are given a thorough medical screening during that time. That recently disqualified one horse what was otherwise perfect, Sergeant Roberts said. An X-ray revealed a bone chip in his left hind leg that would eventually cause significant issues.

Sergeant Roberts said he tries to maintain 10 horses in the unit at all times. The horse Meyers just retired after seven years of service, and two more are getting close. So Sergeant Roberts and the FKCMMP have been horse shopping around the region.

Anyone who has a horse that fits KCPD's criteria that they would be willing to donate or sell can contact Sergeant Roberts at [joey.roberts@kcpd.org](mailto:joey.roberts@kcpd.org). If you're not in the horse business but still want to help, you can donate directly on FKCMMP's web page, [www.kcmountedpatrol.org](http://www.kcmountedpatrol.org). FKCMMP is a 501(c)3 and all donations are tax-deductible. Retired Major Kauzlarich said the FKCMMP also is looking for corporate partners. Interested businesses can contact the FKCMMP's Board of Directors through the same web site.

## SCIENTIST VOLUNTEERS AT LAB, *cont. from p.2*

Gregor said ethics rules prohibit bodies that are donated to science from being used for such a purpose. Animal heads aren't the same size or shape as humans, and neither are their brains. So with the New Zealand research behind them, (MacGregor is in regular contact with his kiwi counterparts) they're working on the best simulated skull, skin and brain material possible. They've pretty much nailed down a silicon skin and polyurethane skull.

MacGregor has even figured out how to apply sponges around the skull and inject them with fake blood to simulate the blood within skin-level tissues. Now it's onto the brain matter.

"I think I'll start with plastic wrap and gelatin," MacGregor said.

He also sits in on monthly meetings with lab staff, where he serves as an independent scientific point of view, consulting on things from report wording to possible methodology

improvements. He has his own cubicle and comes in two to three days a week. He also reads scientific literature at home that could assist Crime Lab staff.

At age 78, MacGregor said he has no plans to slow down. As breakthroughs happen in forensic science, he'll be helping to bring them to – and even make them happen in – Kansas City.

## Upcoming Events

February 23

**A Call For Back-Up  
Police Foundation Gala**

March 14

**Headquarters Blood  
Drive**

March 20

**Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting**

The mission of the  
Kansas City Missouri  
Police Department is to  
protect and serve with  
professionalism, honor  
and integrity.

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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

**Special Unit Citation**  
East Property Crimes  
Section

**Meritorious Service  
Award**  
Major Karen True  
Sergeant Corey Carlisle  
Officer Todd Stoker  
Public Relations Specialist  
Cathy Williams

**Certificate of  
Commendation**  
Detective David DeLaMare

### Promotions

To Deputy Chief  
David Bosworth  
Sharon Laningham  
Roger Lewis

To Major  
Karen True

To Director  
Merrell Bennekin

To Sergeant  
Kurtis Anderson  
Michael Buckley  
Jason Childers  
Christopher DeFreece  
William Dillingham  
Janice Heins  
Michael Helvie  
Andrew Henry  
Christopher Krueger  
Matt Neal  
David McCunniff  
Ashley McCunniff  
Justin Palmer

To Supervisor  
Jennifer Howard

To Assistant Supervisor  
Jennifer McMurray

**25-Year Rings**  
Sergeant Eric Dillenkoffer  
Officer Jimmie Frank, Jr.  
Officer Richard Green  
Administrative Assistant

Raychelle Harrison  
Interoperability Systems  
Manager Stephen  
Hoskins  
Sergeant Ronald Hunter,  
Jr.  
Captain Todd Marckx  
Captain Monte May  
Sergeant Patrick Rauzi  
Sergeant Lorenzo  
Simmons  
Detective Bradley Thomas  
Forensic Specialist Larry  
Washington  
Master Patrol Officer  
Oliver Wolz

### Retirements

Master Detective Michael  
Bailey  
Officer Annamarie  
Cutburth

### Obituaries

Retired P.O. Robert Duffy  
Retired Sgt. Robert Micco  
Retired Det. Garry Myers  
Retired P.O. Curtis Welch